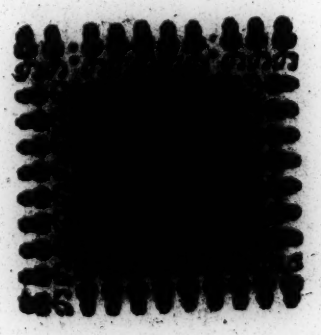
REBELLS LETTER TO THE POPE.

VVherein they present unto him their Late Purchases by the Sword in *Ireland*, praying his Benediction for their future Proceedings.

Sent and communicated by an *Irish* Priest unto his friends here in *England*.



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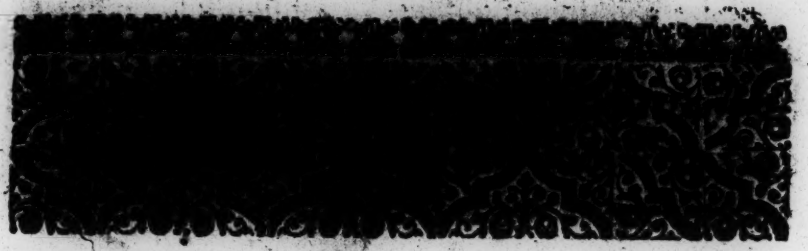

A LETTER FROM THE Chieftains of the *Irish* Rebels unto the POPE.

MOst holy Father, Forasmuch as we being lately moved and stirred up by the instinct and will of Almighty God, to recover this Kingdome from the heavy yoke of the *English*; who for many yeers past by force have kept under, and suppressed both our Religion and Nation; Have now, making use of the advantages of the time, while the Heretiques are in civill discord, with great courage and alacrity broke our bonds, and welnigh totally freed our selves from their yoke: We therefore now have thought it our duty to declare unto your Holinesse, that it hath alwayes been, and ever shall be,

our principall care and endeavour to revive the State of the Catholique Church here almoſt extinguiſhed, and to reſtore her ruins; as reputing it with our ſelves for our part and duty to ſpend and imploy our very lives and all our ſubſtance in the propagation and inlargement of the ſame: To which alſo we have been the more willingly induced (if not compelled) for that if we had not uſed this timely prevention againſt miſchief, we were like to have expected a worſe eſtate and being here, then that which the *Turks* afford unto their Chriſtian Subjects: inſomuch that we muſt have left either our countrey, lives, or Religion; Wherefore being at this point, unto whom with more right and hope can we make our recourſe for help and aſſiſtance then unto thee our ſpirituall Father on earth, that under the wings of thy favour and benediction, we may finde ſecuritie in all our enterpriſes: Which thing we hope to obtain of your Holineſſe, by the example of others who have never ſought in vain for grace and favour from your holy See in their need and affliction.

affliction; Vnto thee therefore, the common Father of mercy unto all the ſonnes of the Church, as unto our onely refuge and moſt ſafe Sanctuary we make this our addreſſe, moſt humbly beſeeching that thou wilt hear our ſighs, receive our prayers, and grant our requeſts, that the mouthes may be ſtopped, and the force broken of them that hate thee, and threaten to hinder the re-edification of the broken walls of our Ieruſalem. Wherein if your Holineſſe will vouchſafe credit unto us (without arrogance be it ſpoken) never any of our predeceſſors ſince the time our Kingdome firſt came into the hands of the *Engliſh*, have been more forward and gone further in the propagation of the holy faith firſt brought in unto us by our holy Apoſtle St *Patrick* then our ſelves; and to cheriſh, amplifie, and ſpread the ſame, having now welnigh caſt off the hereticall yoke of the *Engliſh*, whereunder it lay almoſt extinguiſhed and buried in theſe parts: For in theſe our endeavours we deſire and aime at no other thing then the defence of the Catholique faith, and of the glory of

the Roman See, in the reflouriſhing of the ſame in this Kingdom. Wherefore let your Holines vouchſafe to incline to theſe Petitions of us, who contemning honours and profits whatſoever, deſire not to live a day longer, then that they may ſee the Church of Rome flouriſh throughout the Vniverſe.

Now in the firſt place, our requeſt is, that for the better increaſe of the faith, to thoſe Eccleſiaſticall Sees that are voyd in this Kingdome, ſuch may be preferred who are eminent for learning, and policie, who together with us take great paines in the promotion and advancing forward of the Catholike Cauſe, being ſuch whom wee with the moſt Reverend Biſhop of *Cork*, have nominated and commended, as Paſtours fit to inſtruct thy flock, both with the Word, and by their owne example; leſt otherwiſe men, perhaps coming with more ambition and authoritie then worth, intrude themſelves into the managing of the Catholike Cauſe in this Kingdome: To which requeſt wee are moved by the great loſſe of many fallen away to the Adver-

verſary, which here wee have ſuffered through the paucitie of Paſtours in either Province of *Mounſter*, which conteineth Eleven Biſhopricks, all under the Metropolis of *Caſſills*: The reverend Biſhop of *Cork* being alſo wholly worne out and ſpent with age and labour. And this wee the more boldly crave, for that thoſe that have beene elected, conſecrated, and ſent from your ſacred See to poſſeſſe the places voyd in theſe parts, are by us (with the aſſiſtance of Almightie God) ſo defended and ſecured, that they may with ſafetie watch over and tend the flocks committed to their charge.

Moreover, Wee deſire that as your predeceſſours, *Pius Quintus*, and *Gregorie* the thirteenth, of happie memory, [illegible]abliſhed and ſent their Buls of Excommunication againſt the late Queene of *England*, and her Adherents; Even ſo that your Holines would vouchſafe at this time to denounce and ſend forth the like Sentence againſt all our hereticall Oppoſers, for the furtherance and advancement of this Warre, and the facilitating of a happy and wiſhed conſummation of the ſame.

And

And lastly, with the greatest [illegible] our hearts that wee are able, wee commit and commit unto your sanctitie, this your Kingdome, that depends on your selfe onely (under God) together with our selves as your humble Subjects, and the bearers hereof our Ambassadours unto your Holines, who will more fully by word of mouth what we (assisted with their helpe and doctrine) have atchieved in this Warre, Praying that your Holines will vouchsafe unto them undoubted credit and beliefe.

Given in our Catholike Campe the 20th of *December* 1641. *Stilo novo.*

Your Holinesses most obedient Sonnes and most faithfull Subjects;

Oneale Omaghon.
Mac Cartie More.
Mac Donogh Macquire.

FINIS.

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1 June 1916